

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 2 to 10 and 12 to 16 are amended. Claims 17 to 19 are cancelled and claims 20 to 22 are added as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The antivibration element of claim 17~~
~~The work apparatus of claim 20~~, wherein said end section is fixed form tight on said guide slot.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The antivibration element of claim 17~~
~~The work apparatus of claim 20~~, wherein said end section extends over a number of said turns in a range of 3/4-turn to greater than 2-turns.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The antivibration element of claim 3~~
~~The work apparatus of claim 3~~, wherein said number of said turns is greater than approximately 1 1/4-turns.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The antivibration element of claim 3~~
~~The work apparatus of claim 3~~, wherein said transition section

extends over approximately one turn to four turns.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The antivibration element of claim 3~~
~~The work apparatus of claim 3~~, wherein said coil spring has first
and second ends twisted relative to each other.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The antivibration element of claim 6~~
~~The work apparatus of claim 6~~, wherein said first and second ends
are twisted relative to each other by approximately a half turn.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The antivibration element of claim 3~~
~~The work apparatus of claim 3~~, wherein said end section is a
first end section and said coil spring has a second end section;
and, said guide member is a first guide member and said guide
slot is a first helically-shaped guide slot and said
antivibration element comprises a second guide member defining a
second helically-shaped guide slot; and, said coil spring is
guided at said first and second end sections on said first and
second helically-shaped guide slots, respectively.
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9. (Currently Amended) ~~The antivibration element of claim 8~~
~~The work apparatus of claim 8~~, wherein said first and second
guide members are configured as first and second plugs projecting
into the interior of said coil spring from opposite ends thereof;
and, first and second helically-shaped guide slots are formed on
said first and second plugs, respectively.
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10. (Currently Amended) ~~The antivibration element of claim 9~~

The work apparatus of claim 9, each of said first and second plugs having receptacles formed therein for accommodating an attachment device.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) The antivibration element of claim 9
The work apparatus of claim 9, wherein, in said transition section, the spacing (a, a') of the base of said helically-shaped guide slots to said longitudinal center axis becomes less with 5 increasing distance from the end section.

13. (Currently Amended) The antivibration element of claim 12
The work apparatus of claim 12, wherein said guide slots each have a trapezoidally-shaped cross section.

14. (Currently Amended) The antivibration element of claim 13
The work apparatus of claim 13, wherein said trapezoidally-shaped guide slot has first and second flanks defining respective angles (α , β) with said longitudinal center axis of said coil 5 spring which are each less than 90° .

15. (Currently Amended) The antivibration element of claim 14
The work apparatus of claim 14, wherein said angles (α , β) lie in a range of 30° to 60° .

16. (Currently Amended) The antivibration element of claim 9
The work apparatus of claim 9, wherein said guide slots each have

a circular-arc-shaped cross section.

Claims 17 to 19 (Cancelled).

20. (New) A portable handheld work apparatus comprising:
- a first housing part;
- a drive motor connected to said first housing part;
- a second housing part and a handle connected to said second
- 5 housing part;
- an antivibration unit subject to deformation under load
- during operation of said work apparatus;
- said antivibration unit having a spring constant which
- increases in response to said load and said deformation thereby
- 10 facilitating a good guidance of said work apparatus when held and
- used by an operator;
- said antivibration unit including:
- a coil spring defining a longitudinal axis and having an end
- section, a mid section and a transition section extending from
- 15 said end section to said mid section;
- said coil spring having a first end fixed to said first
- housing part and having a second end fixed to said second housing
- part so as to cause said first housing part to be connected to
- said second housing part via said coil spring;
- 20 a guide member having a helically-shaped guide slot wherein
- turns of said coil spring are guided;
- said end section being fixed in said helically-shaped guide
- slot so that said coil spring is fixed to said first housing
- part;

25 said guide slot having first and second flanks delimiting
 said slot in the direction of said longitudinal axis;
 said end section and said transition section of said coil
 spring being guided in said helically-shaped slot;
 said transition section having a first play (c) to said
30 first flank in the direction of said axis and a second play (d)
 to said second flank;
 said helically-shaped guide slot having a base and said
 transition section being guided on said guide slot with a third
 play (b) to said base in radial direction so as to cause the
35 turns of said transition section to be moveable in said radial
 direction relative to said helically-shaped slot in the unloaded
 state of said antivibration unit and contribute to the spring
 action of said antivibration unit; and,
 wherein said third play (b) is overcome during the
40 deformation of said coil spring under load in a direction
 perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and the turns of said
 transition section come at least in part into contact engagement
 with said helically-shaped slot so that the spring stiffness of
 said antivibration unit increases because of said at least in
 part contact engagement of the turns of said transition section.

21. (New) The work apparatus of claim 1, wherein said spring constant is low when said antivibration unit is not subjected to load and said spring constant is high when said antivibration unit is under load.

22. (New) The work apparatus of claim 21, wherein said third

play (b) between said coil spring and said base becomes greater with increasing distance from said end section when said antivibration unit is not under load; a first cross section of 5 said coil spring is at a first play distance from said base in the course of a half turn of said coil spring in said transition section; said first play distance increases to a greater second play distance (b') in the course of a further half turn so that with increasing load and the deformation of said coil spring 10 associated therewith continuously more turns of said coil spring come into contact engagement with said helically-shaped guide slot and said spring constant of said coil spring increases in correspondence to the increase of said third play (b) between said coil spring and said base of said helically-shaped guide 15 slot.